



HARVEYCUTTER TOPS 2009 HALL OF FAME CLASS

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What do you get the man who has everything?
How about membership in a Hall of Fame?

Carey Harveycutter, Salem's Mr. Everything, is being inducted into the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame this month. It's an honor he never imagined possible as a child selling programs at old Municipal Field nearly 50 years ago.

"This was a big shock to me," says Harveycutter. "Granted, I've been around baseball my entire life, but this is really quite remarkable."

Harveycutter grew up on Broad St. in downtown Salem right beside what is currently City Hall. Each summer his dad would give him a booklet of tickets so he could attend the Appalachian League games at the city's ballpark. Carey would anxiously ride his bike to old Municipal Field on game days to take in the sights and the sounds of minor league baseball.

"I was only about 8 or 10 years old when I first started going to the games and I would arrive really early so I could watch batting practice," he says. "One day the team's owner, Jack Dame, asked me if I would like to make 25 cents a game."

Harveycutter stuffed game programs with bingo cards and wiped down seats that were often wet due the leaky roof that covered the main grandstand to earn that quarter. By the time he turned 13 he had been promoted to the penthouse at the ball park to run the electronic scoreboard.

"Back then the press box was right on the lip of the roof and you looked right down over home plate," he says. "The glass windows were covered by chicken wire, but there were a number of occasions when a foul ball would bend the chicken wire, break the window and I would be covered in glass."

Hazardous working conditions were part of the ballpark fun for Harveycutter. Back then foul balls were the property of the team not fans, so Carey often was the one who had to run down errant balls, coax them from kids and bring them back to the umpires.

But retrieving those foul balls was nothing compared to the night he had to track down a flag. The baseball team back in the 60s was known as the Salem Rebels and a confederate flag flew high above the field behind the stands. One night some residents at a nearby house thought the flag would make a nice wall decoration in their living room.

"I was told to go across the street and get the flag back," he says. "They first said they didn't have it, but when I told them Mr. Dame could see it hanging up through the window, they gave it back to me."



Carey never pitched an inning of any game at what is now known as Kiwanis Field, but he did almost get swept off his feet in the center of the diamond one night. Harveycutter was on the tarp crew along with Dan Wooldridge one evening during the 1995 NCAA Division III baseball tournament.

“Two times when we pulled the tarp they ran me over the pitching mound and about killed me,” he says. “I survived, but I dropped my cell phone and it ended up being under the tarp. We had to get a part-time employee to crawl under the tarp like a gopher and find the phone for me.”

That “gopher” reluctantly had to follow a ringtone to the find that phone, but Harveycutter gladly followed Dame to the Salem Civic Center when it was built in 1967. In January of 1968, he became an office runner for his mentor doing anything and everything that was asked of him. During his 40 year tenure at the “Carey Dome” he’s worked as a hockey statistician despite having never seen a hockey game and served as assistant promotions director even though there was never a promotions director over him.

He now oversees all aspects of the Taliaferro Complex including the baseball facility, Salem Memorial Stadium. He works as the direct liaison with the Salem Red Sox, and he was even on the original board of the very Hall of Fame he’s been selected to enter.

But neither his 40 year career with the City of Salem nor his Hall of Fame induction would have been possible had he not accepted that offer to stuff programs back in the early 60s.

“Jack Dame was like a father to me until he died in 1983,” he says. “The ball park and the Civic Center were just great places to grow up, and to this day it’s a family group that looks out for one another.”

Now that’s what I call being Safe at Home.

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The 2009 Class of inductees for the Salem Roanoke Baseball hall of fame also includes former Cave Spring and Virginia Tech star Dee Dalton, as well as youth baseball advocates - Jerry Ellis and Bruce Spencer.

The HOF's 18th annual banquet and induction ceremony will be held in conjunction with the inaugural Salem Red Sox Hot Stove Banquet on Thursday, January 29th.